

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network apparatus comprising:
an XML checker to determine if a received message includes XML information;
the network apparatus adapted to switch the message to an output port or to a selected processing node based upon business transaction information provided in XML in the message if the message includes XML information.
2. The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus is adapted to switch or forward the message substantially without XML processing if the message does not include XML information.
3. The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus comprises a traffic manager.
4. The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus comprises a network processor.
5. The network apparatus of claim 1 comprising a content based message director to switch messages to one of a plurality of output ports or one

of a plurality of processing nodes based upon comparing business transaction information provided in XML to a configuration pattern.

6. The network apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network apparatus comprises an XML parser to parse XML information in the received message.

7. A method comprising:
receiving a message;
determining if the received message includes XML information; and
switching the message to an output port or to a selected processing node
based upon business transaction information provided in XML in the message if
the message includes XML information.

8. The method of claim 7 and further comprising:
otherwise forwarding the message substantially without XML processing if
the message does not include XML information.

9. The method of claim 7 and further comprising parsing the received
message.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the switching comprises:
comparing the business transaction information provided in XML in the
message to a configuration pattern; and
switching the message to an output port or to a selected processing node
based upon a match between the XML business transaction information and the
configuration pattern.

11. The method of claim 10 and further comprising performing one of the following on the message if there is no match between the XML business transaction information and the configuration pattern:

- directing the message to a default location; and
- blocking or not forwarding the message.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the configuration pattern may indicate one or more of the following:

- a source or From entity of the message;
- a destination or To entity of the message;
- a type of transaction; and
- a purchase amount.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein the determining if the received message includes XML information comprises performing one of the following:

- detecting a certain filename or type of filename in the message;
- detecting a certain type of filename extension in the message;
- examining header information in the message; and
- examining one or more tags in the message.